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Message Text

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21
ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03

OMB-01 /041 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OFP/FPD:JRICHARDSON:JS
APPROVED BY EB/OFP/FPD:PDTAYLOR
ARA/ECP:ABERRY
ARA/PAN:DWAGNER
USDA/FAS:JRIESZ
EB/OFP:JAFERCH
-
---------- 088800
R 190528Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, PN

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

1. AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, IMPORTS OF MEAT FROM PANAMA
SUBJECT TO THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT WERE 2,313,045
POUNDS AND REPRESENTED 88.9 PERCENT OF THE AGREED ALLOCA-
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TION OF 2.6 MILLION POUNDS. WEEKLY SHIPPING RATES OVER

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THE PAST THREE WEEKS PLUS MEAT INSPECTION INFORMATION INDICATE THAT IMPORTS FROM PANAMA WILL REACH THE RESTRAINT LEVEL EARLY IN OCTOBER.

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF SECTION 3 OF THE 1976 AGREEMENT, EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTATIONS. IN THESE CONSULTATIONS, EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON THE ABOVE AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--WE VALUE PANAMA AS A REALIABLE SUPPLIER OF MEAT TO THE US MARKET.

--FOR THIS REASON WE WERE EAGER TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH PANAMA FOR 1976 WHICH WOULD PERMIT A LEVEL OF OVERALL IMPORTS NEARLY 10 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THE LEVEL THAT WOULD

BE PERMITTED UNDER A MANDATORY QUOTA IN THE ABSENCE OF A RESTRAINT PROGRAM.

--WE HOPE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA WILL TAKE STEPS TO REGULATE SHIPMENTS IN A MANNER TO PREVENT THE PANAMANIAN RESTRAINT LEVEL FROM BEING REACHED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

--FOR OUR PART, USG IS IN THE PROCESS OF ISSUING REGULA-TIONS TO PREVENT US IMPORTS FROM PANAMA FROM EXCEEDING 2.6 MILLION POUNDS DURING 1976. THESE REGULATIONS WILL IN NO WAY ALTER THE RESTRAINT LEVEL SPECIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT WE HAVE CONCLUDED WITH PANAMA. ROBINSON

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Disposition Authority: powellba
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